Payment of DA to Central Government employees in Goa

1197. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Minister had given an assurance in 1990 to Central Government employees in Goa that their demand will be considered to have the D.A. at par with 'A' class city as the cost of living in Goa is very high due to high per capita income of the State; and

(b) if so, at what stage the case is pending and what will be financial implication and when it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) There are no records to indicate that the then Finance Minister had given any such assurance in 1990 to the Central Government employees in Goa.

(b) Does not arise.

वक्फ बोर्डों की आय

1198. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल:** क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 31 मार्च, 1991 को समाप्त हुए वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान देश के वक्फ बोर्डों की राज्यवार आय क्या-क्या थी ; और

(ख) इस आय का दुरुपयोग होने से बचाने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केसरी): (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Steel and Power Projects delay due to Rouble trade with USSR

1199. SHRI SHIVPRASAD CHANPURIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Soviet dislike for Rouble trade delaying, Power, Steel projects" which appeared in the Economic Times of the 5th August, 1991;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that technical credits of over rupees 9000 crores have been provided by Soviet Union to the Indian Public Sector units;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to economic and political turmoil in USSR Indian Public Sector units have been asked to pay in dollars for the credits provided to them;

(d) if so, whether the supply of capital goods, spare parts and other essential materials to Bakeshwar project and the two blastfurnaces under the modernisation plan for Durgapur Steel plant are being delayed;

(e) which other projects are affected by dilatory supply of capital, capital goods and spare parts, and to what extent; and

(f) what steps Government propose to take to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No technical credits of over Rs, 9000 crores have been provided by Soviet Union to the Public Sector units. But agreements have been signed with USSR for providing credits aggregating to Roubles 9995.36 million for different projects in the public sector, which are utilised or drawn upon from time to time depending on the progress of the projects.

(c) According to agreements, Soviet credits are denominated in Roubles and the repayment of principal and payment of interest are made in non-convertible Indian rupees.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Steps to increase the availability of Hank Yarn

1200. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to increase the availability of hank yarn of counts below 40s;

(b) whether export of cotton yarn will be curtailed to meet the demands of local weavers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not how the demand of the weavers will be adjusted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government of India is implementing the Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme which requires every producer of yarn to pack atleast 50 per cent of the total yarn packed for civil consumption in hank form of which not less than 80 per cent has to be in counts of 40s and below Packing of cotton yarn in hank form has been increasing from year to year and no scarcity of hank yarn had been reported in the country. With a view to further increase the availability of hank yarn of counts below 40s and also to check the rising trend in hank yarn prices noticed during recent weeks, Govt. has directed the National Textile Corporation and the State sector spinning mills to augment production of hank yarn of counts 40s and below by suitably adjusting their production pattern.

(b) and (c) Export of octton yarn of counts upto 60s in hank form is not being permitted, keeping in view the interests of handloom weavers. Government is closely monitoring the availability as well as price of hank yarn of various counts in different parts of the country. Government will consider curtailment of the ceiling fixed for cotton yarn export, as and when such a step is considered necessary.

Exports of Engineering Goods

1201. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being contemplated to increase the export of engineering goods;

(b) what has been annual export of engineering goods during the last three years, year-wise, particularly of tools, fibres, bicycles and autos; and

(c) whether Indian exporters have been able to bag contracts for O.M. services; if so, from which countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Government have recently adopted several measures which are expected to increase exports. These include the adjustment of the exchange rate of the rupee vis-a-vis other currencies and trade policy reforms. The measures that are expected to boost export of engineering goods in particular include provision for grant of Exim Scrip @ 30 per cent of f.o.b. value for all exports of engineering goods, grant of an additional 10 per cent Exim Scrip for export of specified advanced engineering goods, strengthening of the system of advance licences and modification of the method for determination of international price of steel for reimbursement under the International Price Reimbursement Scheme.

(b) Annual export of engineering goods during the last three years viz. 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 as per statistics compiled by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence &